

## **California Child Welfare Council (CWC)**

### **DRAFT CWC Vision/Mission/Guiding Principles/Challenges Criteria**

#### **CWC Vision:**

Every California child deserves a safe, stable, permanent home, nurtured by healthy families with the capacity to meet the child's needs and support their well-being and to be prepared for the transition into adulthood to become contributing members of society.

#### **CWC Mission:**

We provide an effective, collaborative forum for the three branches of government, foster youth and their families, and key stakeholders to advocate for initiatives, policies and programs that improve outcomes for children, youth and families involved with or at risk of involvement in the child welfare system.

#### **CWC Guiding Principles:**

1. Collaboration is essential to achieving improved outcomes for children, youth and families.
2. Accountability for child, youth and family outcomes is a shared responsibility across federal, state, and local government and among multiple agencies, the courts, community partners, families, and youth.
3. Engaging families and youth in the development, implementation and evaluation of services, programs, and policies is essential to achieving improved system outcomes.
4. Sharing data and information across governmental jurisdictions, agencies and the courts promotes more informed program planning, development and evaluation. At the local level, it enables the linkage of children, youth and families to appropriate community services and supports.
5. Best and promising practices should be replicated statewide where appropriate and possible.
6. Maximizing and using multiple funding sources flexibly across systems provides resources needed to meet the comprehensive and complex needs of children, youth and their families.
7. Recommendations will be culturally appropriate, strength-based, evidence-based, and outcomes-driven to ensure that all children, youth and their families are treated fairly and equally without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

#### **CWC Challenge Criteria:**

1. Does the challenge fall within one of the thirteen areas initially identified under AB 2216 as requiring Council focus?

2. Does the challenge require an interagency response or is it a single agency/system challenge?
3. Does the challenge represent an urgent priority (short-term or long-term) both where the Council could have a positive impact and which could be realistically initiated within the next 12 to 24 months?
4. Does the challenge support the State's work in meeting Federal and State child welfare/foster care system outcomes? Do some challenges support progress toward outcomes more than others?
5. Could the challenge be addressed outside the Council and/or are there groups that already have addressed or are addressing a challenge where the Council could glean lessons learned, avoid duplication of effort, or build on existing work?